and Development proposal from Italy regarding transport technology of coal;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal including its techno-economic features, validity and implications in terms of Indian mining conditions;

(c) what are the details of the assessment made and decision taken thereon; and

(d) whether Government consider appointing Expert Committee to streamline marketing and transport system of Coal India Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) In 1987 an Italian company had made an offer to Coal India Limited regarding preparation of a feasibility report on High Concentration Coal Slurry Transportation Technology. This study envisaged techno-economic evaluation to assess the applicability of patented coal-water slurry technology to Indian coals and to identity and optimise a commercially integrated system for pipeline transportation and direct combustion of slurry. On examination of various related aspects of the offer the Standing Scientific Research Committee (SSRC) of the Ministry of Coal decided not to pursue this study.

(d) As of now there is no proposal for appointing an Expert Committee to streamline marketing and transport system of Coal India Limited.

साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० के अधीन एक अस्पताल का निर्माण

1487. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० (एस०ई०सी०एल०) बिलासपुर के अधीन किसी स्थान पर सभी सुविधाओं से युक्त एक बड़े अस्पताल के निर्माण का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे अस्पताल का किस स्थान पर निर्माण किए जाने की संभावना है ?

कोयला मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री एस० बी० नयमेगौडा) : (क) और (ख) साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० द्वारा बिलासपुर में सिगयाडीह के स्थान पर एक बहु-विशेषताओं की सुविधा से सुसज्जित 200 बिस्तर वाले अस्पताल का निर्माण किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है ।

Setting up of coal washeries in private sector for Government mines

1488. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared a proposal to allow the private sector to set up coal washeries for Government mines;

(b) if so, the details of the private sector companies which have shown interest for coal washeries in Government mines;

(c) whether the private washeries have been allowed to sell coal directly to the consumers; and

(d) if so, to what extent the consumers would be benefited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The Central Government have decided to permit private sector participation in coal mining for the purpose of captive consumption for power generation and other end uses as may be notified from time to time, and also in setting up of coal washeries.

A Bill has been introduced in Parliament to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 in order to implement the above decision of the Government.